

# **Association of Northwest Steelheaders**

J53 -304 JUN 16 2004

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June 9, 2004

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Office Manager Sharon Schaub Stephan J. Wright, Administrator Bonneville Power Administration 905 N.E. 11th Avenue Portland, OR 97208

## Dear Mr. Wright:

I am writing to you today on behalf of hundreds of our NW Steelheader members in opposition to your proposal to reduce spill for summer migrants in the Columbia. Spill is the single most effective way to help out migrating salmon to negotiate reservoirs and power production dams between their spawing stream to the ocean. Years where smolts had adequate spill resulted in years of high adult returns. We should not give up what is certain—spill-for uncertain measures and promises, especially given the dismal track record of broken promises.

Summer spill reductions will impact tens of thousands of steelhead and salmon, while saving pennies on our electric bills. Savings we have no grantee of ever seeing. Salmon and those of us who's lives are enriched by them have already paid a high enough price for hydro development in the Northwest. Surely we should not suffer further harm in order to help the BPA improve its financial position.

Please support the citizens of the Northwest in our support for abundant salmon populations by telling BPA to spill, not kill.

Sincerely,

Norman E. Ritchie

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